R E M A R K S

Careful review and examination of the subject application are noted and appreciated.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of claims 1-3, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamdi (U.S. Patent No. 6,408,351) in view of Okamura (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0021659) and in further view of Young (U.S. Patent No. 6862636) has been obviated and should be withdrawn.

Hamdi teaches a host modem having a peripheral codec powered by a peripheral bus (Title). Okamura teaches a method and system for connecting a mobile communication unit to a personal computer (Title). Young teaches a multi-mode speaker operating from either digital or analog sources (Title).

In contrast, the present invention provides an apparatus comprising a transceiver circuit. The transceiver circuit comprises a multiplexer circuit, an interface circuit, a physical layer interface and a plurality of bus input/outputs (I/Os). The transceiver circuit may be configured to directly couple (i) an analog input signal to the bus I/Os with the multiplexer circuit when the bus I/Os are in a first state and (ii) a plurality of first digital signals to the bus I/Os with the multiplexer circuit when the bus I/Os are in a second state. The multiplexer circuit

may be configured to present/receive (i) an analog output signal on an input/output when in the first state and (ii) the plurality of first digital signals on the input/output when in the second state. The interface circuit may be configured to present a control signal to the multiplexer circuit and the physical layer interface to control coupling in response to the first state and the second state. Claims 14 and 15 provide similar limitations. Hamdi, Okamura or Young, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest such limitations.

In particular, Hamdi fails to teach a transceiver circuit configured to couple an analog signal to the bus I/Os with a multiplexer circuit. Hamdi also fails to teach a transceiver circuit configured to directly couple a plurality of first digital signals to the bus I/Os with the multiplexer circuit. The Examiner agrees with this position (see page 2, lines 7-8 of the second paragraph marked "1"). In particular, Hamdi and Okamura fail to teach a signal device which comprises an analog state and a digital state. The Examiner agrees with this position (see page 3, lines 4-5 of the second paragraph). Young fails to cure the deficiencies of Hamdi and Okamura.

In particular, Young fails to teach a transceiver circuit comprising an interface circuit and a physical layer interface as presently claimed. While Young teaches a multiplexer circuit configured to present both analog and digital signals, Young fails

to teach an interface circuit configured to present a control signal to the multiplexer circuit and a physical layer, as presently claimed. The cited references alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the presently claimed invention. As such, the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited rejection and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, the Office Action fails to meet the Office's burden to factually establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness (M.P.E.P. §2142). In particular, the Office Action fails to factually establish the suggestion or motivation for the modification of Okamura as suggested in the Office Action. The Office Action asserts that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teaching of Young with the combination of Hamdi and Okamura (See page 3, paragraph 3). However, such an assertion does not appear to be supported by Okamura and Young. In particular, Okamura teaches a switch 40 that is configured to allow for **bidirectional** transmission of digital data between a personal computer and a number of devices on a mobile unit (see FIGS. 2-3). Specifically, the switch 40 of Okamura allows for bidirectional transmission of digital data between (i) the phone controller 24 and the controller 30 (e.g., pins a and b), (ii) the voice processor 11 and the wireless interface 48, (iii) the packet processor 12 and the packet processor 32 (e.g., pins e and f), and (iv) the fax transceiver 13

and the fax transceiver 33 (e.g., pins g and h) (see FIGS. 2-3 of Okamura). The addition of the multiplexer circuit 140 taught by Young in place of the switch 40 of Okamura would alter the bi-directional operation of Okamura.

In particular, Young teaches a multiplexer circuit 140 that presents analog or digital audio signals **unidirectionally**. Young teaches that the multiplexer circuit 140 allows for unidirectional transmission of digital and audio signals between the speaker input 110 and the audio amplifier 150 (see Young, FIG. 1). Young fails to teach a multiplexer circuit 140 configured to allow bidirectional communication between the speaker input 110 and the audio amplifier 150. The multiplexer circuit of Young would prevent bidirectional communication between the mobile unit and the computer of Okamura (see Okamura, FIGS. 2-3). The multiplexer circuit of Young would alter the operation of Okamura and make the computer and the mobile unit of Okamura unsuitable for the intended purpose. As such, Young does not appear to provide the suggestion or motivation for making the proposed modification as required by M.P.E.P. §2143.01. Therefore, since the Office Action does not appear to factually establish the required motivation or suggestion within the prior art, the Office Action fails to meet the Office's burden to factually establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness (M.P.E.P. §2142). As such, the present invention is fully

patentable over the cited reference and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicants' representative respectfully requests that the amendment to claims 1, 14 and 15 be entered in this after final amendment. The subject matter added to claims 1, 14 and 15 was previously presented as part of claim 10. The amendments to claims 10 and 13 were made to ensure the claims include proper antecedent basis after the amendment to the independent claims. As such, no new issues are believed to be raised.

The rejection of claims 4, 13, 17, 18 and 20 as being unpatentable over Hamdi (U.S. Patent No. 6,408,351) and Okamura (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/021659) in further view of the background has been obviated and should be withdrawn. Claims 4, 13, 17, 18 and 20 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 or claim 15, which are now believed to be allowable.

The rejection of claims 5 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamdi (U.S. Patent No. 6,408,351), Okamura (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0021659), Young (U.S. Patent No. 6862636) in further view of online publication (USB OTG) has been obviated and should be withdrawn. Claims 5 and 19 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 or claim 15, which are now believed to be allowable.

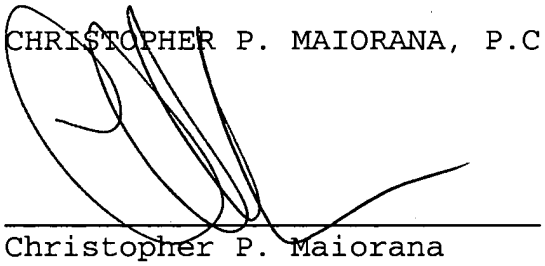
Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.

If any additional fees are due, please charge our office Account No. 50-0541.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTOPHER P. MAIORANA, P.C.



Christopher P. Maiorana
Registration No. 42,829
24840 Harper Avenue, Suite 100
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080
(586) 498-0670

Dated: January 31, 2006

Docket No.: 0325.00529